

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 016450
ORIGIN LAB-04

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APPROVED BY IO:GADALLEY
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DOL:HSAMUEL
S/IL:DGOOD
L/UNA:AKRECZKO

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ILO

SUBJECT: US REACTION TO EC-9 PROPOSAL ON ILO STRUCTURE

1. AT MEETING ON JANUARY 18, SUBSTANCE OF EC-9 PROPOSAL ON ILO STRUCTURE RELATING TO COMPOSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT GROUP OF THE GOVERNING BODY (ARTICLE 7 OF THE ILO CONSTITUTION) WAS PRESENTED TO MEMBERS OF CABINET-LEVEL COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRUCTURE. SUBCOMMITTEE INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES OF US GOVERNMENT, EMPLOYER AND WORKER ORGANIZATIONS. ON THE BASIS OF THIS REVIEW, MISSION IS REQUESTED TO MAKE FOLLOWING VIEWS KNOWN TO APPROPRIATE EC-9 AND IMEC REPS IN GENEVA, AS WELL AS TO ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL. DEPARTMENT ALSO REQUESTS MISSION RECOMMENDATION AFTER SUCH DISCUSSIONS ON THE ADVISABILITY OF (A) RAISING
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THESE ISSUES IN THE CAPITALS OF IMEC COUNTRIES AT THE FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL, AND (B) RAISING THESE ISSUES WITH G-77 EITHER IN GENEVA OR IN CAPITALS.

2. IN GENERAL, CLC SUBCOMMITTEE BELIEVES EC-9 PROPOSAL FOR ARTICLE 7 GENERALLY REPRESENTS A NEGATIVE STEP. THIS REACTION IS BASED ON (A) BELIEF THAT ENLARGEMENT OF GOVERN-

MENT SEATS ON GOVERNING BODY TO EITHER 46 OR 50 TITULAR SEATS WOULD RESULT IN WEAKENING OF OVERALL IMEC STRENGTH IN GOVERNING BODY, (B) ENLARGING THE GB, ALREADY THE

LARGEST SUCH BODY AMONG THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, WOULD MAKE IT COMPLETELY UNWIELDY, (C) CONCERN THAT ENLARGEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT GROUP WOULD ULTIMATELY CREATE PRESSURES IMPOSSIBLE TO RESIST ON THE EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS TO ENLARGE THEIR GROUPS AS WELL, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE SIZE OF NON-GOVERNMENT GROUPS WAS INITIALLY UNCHANGED BY VIRTUE OF WEIGHTED VOTING SYSTEM, (D) FEELING THAT PROPOSED CREATION OF FOUR REGIONAL ELECTORAL COLLEGES WOULD NOT SATISFY G-77 DEMANDS FOR EQUALITY, PARTICULARLY GIVEN THAT AFRICAN REGION WOULD LOSE HEAVILY, AND (E) TOTAL OPPOSITION TO CREATION OF SEPARATE REGION FOR EASTERN EUROPE BECAUSE OF ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR EASTERN EUROPEAN ROTATION IN TERMS OF CONFERENCE AND GOVERNING BODY OFFICERS, AS WELL AS POTENTIAL DEMAND FOR EASTERN EUROPEAN REGIONAL ILO CONFERENCE.

3. ON BALANCE, SUBCOMMITTEE FEELS THAT RETENTION OF EXISTING PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 7 IS THE MOST DESIRABLE OUTCOME. IF, HOWEVER, IMEC MEMBERS FEEL EXISTING SYSTEM IS INDEFENSIBLE GIVEN G-77 PRESSURES, SUBCOMMITTEE HOPES EC-9 AND IMEC MEMBERS WOULD GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO AN ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD (A) RETAIN THE 28 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TITULAR SEATS; (B) RETAIN EXISTING NONELECTIVE STATES OF CHIEF INDUSTRIAL IMPORTANCE; AND, AT THE SAME TIME, (C) RECOGNIZE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR REPRESENTATION ON THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE FOUR EXISTING REGIONS. IN PRACTICE, THIS WOULD MEAN THAT EACH REGION (AMERICAS, AFRICA, ASIA AND EUROPE) WOULD RECEIVE SEVEN TITULAR GOVERNMENT SEATS. THE EXISTING STATES OF CHIEF INDUSTRIAL IMPORTANCE WOULD BE COUNTED AGAINST THESE REGIONAL SEATS. THUS, FIVE OF THE SEVEN TITULAR EUROPEAN SEATS WOULD BE OCCUPIED BY STATES OF CHIEF INDUSTRIAL IMPORTANCE, TWO OF THE SEVEN TITULAR SEATS FOR THE AMERICAS REGION WOULD BE OCCUPIED BY STATES OF CHIEF INDUSTRIAL IMPORTANCE, ETC. THE TOTAL IMPACT OF THIS PROPOSAL WOULD BE TO SHIFT ONE EUROPEAN SEAT (HOPEFULLY NOW OCCUPIED BY EASTERN EUROPE) TO AFRICA. OTHERWISE, THE BALANCE OF POWER IN THE GOVERNING BODY WOULD REMAIN ABOUT THE SAME WHILE PRESERVING THE ADVANTAGES INHERENT IN THE STATES OF CHIEF INDUSTRIAL IMPORTANCE.

4. WHILE THIS PROPOSAL IS, OF COURSE, SUBJECT TO FURTHER DISCUSSION, IT SERVES TO TRANSLATE THE CONCERNS OF THE US INTO AN ALTERNATIVE APPROACH TO ARTICLE 7. THIS IS TO SAY, (A) RETAIN THE TEN SEATS, (B) HOLD TO A MINIMUM THE

NUMBER OF TITULAR SEATS, AND (C) PRESERVE IMEC STRENGTH.

5. IN TERMS OF THE IMPACT OF THESE VARIOUS PROPOSALS ON PROSPECTS FOR US RE-ENTRY, THE CLC SUBCOMMITTEE CONSIDERS THAT THE EC-9 PROPOSAL WOULD CONSTITUTE A SIGNIFICANT NEGATIVE DEVELOPMENT. THE US, HOWEVER, INTENDS TO REVIEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS AREA AS WELL AS IN A NUMBER OF OTHER AREAS, PARTICULARLY APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS AND DUE PROCESS, IN CONSIDERING OUR FUTURE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ILO. THE ALTERNATIVE PROPOSED IN PARAGRAPH 3 ABOVE WOULD NOT RAISE AS MANY PROBLEMS IN THIS CONTEXT.

6. THE SUBCOMMITTEE DID NOT DISCUSS IN DETAIL ISSUES RELATING TO ARTICLE 36 OF THE CONSTITUTION CONCERNING AMEND-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION, OR ARTICLE 17 OF THE CONFERENCE STANDING ORDERS CONCERNING RECEIVABILITY OF RESOLUTIONS. THE SUBCOMMITTEE FELT, HOWEVER, THAT BOTH ISSUES WERE IMPORTANT AND SHOULD BE PART OF ANY FINAL SETTLEMENT ON STRUCTURE. CHRISTOPHER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG IMMEDIATE

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USEEC

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 16450 ACTION GENEVA 20 JAN

QUOTE: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 016450

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VIRTUE OF WEIGHTED VOTING SYSTEM, (D) FEELING THAT PROPOSED CREATION OF FOUR REGIONAL ELECTORAL COLLEGES WOULD NOT SATISFY G-77 DEMANDS FOR EQUALITY, PARTICULARLY GIVEN THAT AFRICAN REGION WOULD LOSE HEAVILY, AND (E) TOTAL OPPOSITION TO CREATION OF SEPARATE REGION FOR EASTERN EUROPE BECAUSE OF ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR EASTERN EUROPEAN ROTATION IN TERMS OF CONFERENCE AND GOVERNING BODY OFFICERS, AS WELL AS POTENTIAL DEMAND FOR EASTERN EUROPEAN REGIONAL ILO CONFERENCE.

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INTO AN ALTERNATIVE APPROACH TO ARTICLE 7. THIS IS TO

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6. THE SUBCOMMITTEE DID NOT DISCUSS IN DETAIL ISSUES RELATING TO ARTICLE 36 OF THE CONSTITUTION CONCERNING AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION, OR ARTICLE 17 OF THE CONFERENCE STANDING ORDERS CONCERNING RECEIVABILITY OF RESOLUTIONS. THE SUBCOMMITTEE FELT, HOWEVER, THAT BOTH ISSUES WERE IMPORTANT AND SHOULD BE PART OF ANY FINAL SETTLEMENT ON STRUCTURE. CHRISTOPHER
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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 20 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US REACTION TO EC-9 PROPOSAL ON ILO STRUCTURE
TAGS: ELAB, US, ILO
To: GENEVA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3b10c7e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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